

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 12805

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, US, UK, FR, GW

SUBJECT: BONN GROUP PAPER REQUESTED BY FOREIGN
MINISTERS AT OSLO MEETING

REFS: (A) USBER 1569; (B) BONN 12329; (C) SECTO 13054

1. OUR DRAFT POSITION PAPER WAS PRESENTED IN THE BONN GROUP ON JULY 22 AND HAS BEEN DISCUSSED BOTH TRIPARTITELY AND IN A SUBSEQUENT FULL BONN GROUP MEETING. A SHORT STATUS REPORT IS GIVEN BELOW.

2. MAJOR FOCUS OF DISCUSSION HAS BEEN ON HOW PAPER CAN BE SHORTENED AND MADE LESS TECHNICAL BUT AT THE SAME TIME SERVE AS THE REFERENCE WORK INDICATED IN THE MINISTERS' INSTRUCTIONS (PARA 4 A REF C). SEVERAL IDEAS ARE BEING CONSIDERED, INCLUDING THOSE SUGGESTED REF A. COMPREHENSIVE NATURE OF PAPER IS SEEN AS A PLUS. MOST REPS BELIEVE TWO ADDITIONAL POINTS NEED COVERAGE:
A) PROBLEM OF EAST BERLIN AND ALLIED RECOGNITION OF GDR; AND B) PROBLEM OF FOREIGN REPRESENTATION OF BERLIN'S INTERESTS. THE FRENCH HERE WANT MORE BACKGROUND ON THE "GERMAN" PROBLEM IN ORDER TO SHOW BOTH ITS CONNECTION WITH AND DIFFERENCE FROM THE "BERLIN" PROBLEM. FRG REPS ARE DOING REDRAFT WHICH
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THEY INTEND TO CIRCULATE EARLY WEEK OF AUGUST 2.

3. IN TRIPARTITE MEETING, FRENCH REP HAS STATED MISGIVINGS ABOUT HANDING OVER A PAPER WHICH WILL SURELY GET INTO SOVIET HANDS AND BECOME "STARTING POINT OF QUARREL" WITH USSR. HE HAS FLOATED IDEA OF USING PAPER AS BACKGROUND FOR OFFICERS IN ALLIED CAPITALS WHO WOULD BRIEF FOREIGN REPS AND THEN HAND THEM ALLIED STATEMENTS/REPLIES ALREADY ON PUBLIC RECORD. INITIAL REACTION OF UK AND US REPS IS THAT SUCH A PROCEDURE WOULD BE INSUFFICIENT TO MEET AIM OF PROJECT. GENERAL FEELING NOW OF ALL FOUR REPS, HOWEVER, IS THAT BRIEFINGS IN ALLIED CAPITALS AND PERHAPS BY UN MISSIONS WOULD HAVE GREATER EFFECT THAN IN FOREIGN CAPITALS.

4. COMMENT: WE ARE GENERALLY SATISFIED THAT THE EXERCISE IS MOVING ALONG ON SCHEDULE. SHORTENING THE PAPER WILL BE DIFFICULT BUT WE WILL BE FOCUSING PARTICULARLY ON THIS AND ON SIMPLIFYING THE LANGUAGE. AS NOTED ABOVE, SOME GOOD IDEAS ON HOW TO DO SO HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED IN THE BONN GROUP.
HILLENBRAND

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